(c) The Seminar favoured the strengthening of urban local bodies through constitutional recognition, regular elections, assignment of specific functions and duties, strengthing the base of the Urban Local bodies, resource and coordination of rural and urban development and improvement in the service conditions of the Municipal staff. A comprehensive Bill in this regard has been introduced by the Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha on 7-8-1989.

Growth in construction by NBCC

3330. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Building Construction Corporation had registered a growth in construction during 1988-89;

(b) if so, what was the growth achieved and to what extent the growth was more in comparison to 1987-88; and

(c) what were the amount spent during 1988-89 and what steps are being taken to improve the growth of construction during 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About Rs. 110.00 crores; showing a growth of 10% (approx.) in comparison to 1987-88.

(c) As per tentative figures, the actual expenditure incurred on construction by the NBCC (excluding depreciation and interest) was of the order of about Rs. 95.25 crores. Upgradation of technology, streamlining & close monitoring of the operations with computers and training of the existing work-force for new technologies are some of the steps taen by the Corporation to further improve its functioning during 1989-90.

Credit for agro-based industries

3331. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the discussions between IDBI and World Bank was held for extending a line of credit for setting up agro-based industries and other allied units;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and whether any final decision has been derived at; and

(c) to what extent Karnataka is likely to be benefited in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c) There have been some preliminary discussions with World Bank staff for a proposed Agro Industrial Project.

National mineral policy

3332. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Mineral Policy is being prepared ;

(b) if so, whether the draft policy prepared was revised in the light of observations made by the States, and Central agencies concerned ;